Dear Mary, 6/20/72

This is an unplanned letter the idea for which came to me while, at Lil's very effective suggestion, I joined her in looking at a triviality on TV. She said she thought it might take our minds off things. She had a rather bad day with headaches, I with worry I don't have to repeat. It worked, in two ways. It did ease me off some, relax me, and it did get my mind to wandering around outside the boob tube.

I believe when I was there last winter I told you of my apprehensions and their basis. I had then taken steps to frustrate this but that phoney liberal Burke Marshall didn't keep his word, given to a Senator who agreed with my estimate of the probable consequences, a man who shared out lack of love for one of those most responsible. I have much of the story on tape for the future, less of it in the Epilogue, first person. Fred Graham apparently felt he had to work around me so he tried the straight approach. When I realized what was up I started taping and I have it transcribed with copies deposited outside my possesion. To give you an idea of the inner workings, Marshall did not decide to let anyone see anything until Fred Graham expressed interest. Then it was Graham, not Marshall, who told Lattimer.

Among those who have recently been pressuring Marshall are at least two richbitch phoney liberals, Ned Crosby and a Mrs. Pomeranee, friend of Max Lerner and others like him. I think that at least for the moment I'd best ask you to keep these preliminaries to the point to which I will ultimately wander in confidence. Ned had a contract with me that precluded his talking to anyone without my consent. When he broke the contract I wrote him repeatedly asking pro forma assurances that he would abide by the agreement. To this day he has not supplied it and the reason is clear, he violated it. Enough if not all of this is in writing, including my counterproposal to his interviews. It took him an inordinately long time to return my materials, and they included what is now stolen. I think you will find I do not use this word loosely, for I have, in writing, the chain by which it was passed and those to whom it was. And it was, before then, copyrighted.

There are other things I have done, beginning before you called. I don't know if they were productive or counterproductive or if they were one they may yet change into the other. I do know, by accident, that the council of war scheduled for this coming Friday night, 6/30, is not taking place then.

Because this was not planned, it will skip. Again, confidential, please. Burke Marshall told Ned that he regarded his client not as the executors of the estate but as Jackie! That is a pretty considerable conflict of interest. I have known this for some time but Ned doesn't, so far as I know, know it and, blinded by his illness and objectives, he said it. The contract precludes this. If you have it, read it. And he signed the contract, not any of the executors.

A couple of other fink liberals tried to screw Bobby into writing endorsement of the Report before it was written. This chapter is one of those Ned resented very much. It seems he has a friendly relationship with the man who handled all of this for Bobby. Bobby really was divorced for it all. That man is Katzenbach. My book outs it to Katzenbach, Ned's associate on some orgabization or organizations and to others of his treacherous ilk. They actually threatened Bobby if he didn't go along with it, that they would force him to testify. Do I have to tell a legal secretary that the Deputy Attorney General of the United States and Bobby's trusted should have roared, "Testify to what? He was at Hickory Hill", as I'm sure you know. Another is the same kind of liberal, Howard Willens. Last I heard of him he was on the DJ payroll, as he was when he was assigned to the Commission as its DJ liaison, among other things. Here it makes no difference if once considers Bobby the personification of Virtue or the devil incarnate; it was wrong. And this was long before the Report was even written! You will find enough of this in the chapter Hades, Not Camelot in the final part.

I think this is enough to let you hear the wheels within each other whirring. The problem is what can a man in my circumstances do toward two ends: protecting his own work and protecting those of us who are serious from what, make it impossible within out lifetimes to have an accurate and just allocation of blame and responsibility. To prevent the total exculpation of those most miserable who did the worst. And the waste of all we have done.

Well, one of the more obvious answers is far from a solution. It is to find one or those who can have an interest in a proper allocation of responsibility. With the passing of time, I doubt that Dallas and Texas provide this, but I would not want to ignore the possibility. That Manchester crap reached millions: the spirit of Dallas killed the President. Matter of fact, I got a fair amount of radio and TV time to ridicule this and to give a very simple explanation, a bullet, not a spirit, did the killing, and nobody really knows whose finger was on the trigger. I have reason to believe, although again I can't prove it and have stayed away from the men through whom I have reason to think I did it, that I am responsible for the Kennedy suit against Manchester. It was not necessary to love any Kennedy to want this and to see its need. It was have been an added and great tragedy if the family of a President had not been disassociated from a fraudulent account of his murder with which they had been, in the popular mind, associated.

It is a strange thing but it is also the fact that mine is, as I recall it and others, the only severely critical and responsible xxxx writing that is not in this Manchester spirit. I would never even say that the cop, and I was critical of them, were part of a conspiracy and I don't recall ever changing my mind. People forget, but one of the first things I did was criticize the Commission for its handling of the xxxxxxx men who paid for the ad, or, defend Hunt et al. So, my positions is consistent and not basically changed. And you know how thankless the old coot was when I did him a greater favor later. it is not because I am in accord with his views any more than I have to be with Bobby's, and with many of his I was not, strongly not.

So, what I can conceive, if anyone with the means down there has the interest, is making a clean record on Dallas and Texas, and if it comes from so severe a critic now and historically it is more credible. You know this has long been written and I am not now cooking xx up a book that people. And I do think that whether or not it has or can have wide appeal, the bokk is a thorough and entirely irrefutable job of minning the responsibility for all the dirty owrk on Washington and on real men by their real names. I do not xxxx argue as a sales point that the people really responsible, to a large degree, are those least popular in Texas, like K and the Commission's phoney liberals, like the renegade ADA liberal Specter.

Meanwhile, as best a non-lawyer can offer an opinion, there will be a legitimate basis for a suit. The dirty-work doers have not been smart. A suit, as I am sure you realize, whether or not it has solid objectives, provides many possibilities. Depositions for one. My purposes are serious. If I could file a suit, whatdepositions we could take now! And what use they could be in unravelling so much! As an aside, although I have no personal knowledge, I don't for a minute believe the Democratic National Committee has the remotest belief it will collect a million, if anything. But I'll betcha it isn't long before they are into their discovery part.

I don't think you can come up with a lawyer, but slight as the chance might be, you couldn't unless you knew, hence this letter.

As of late tonight I've heard fom none of those to whom I wrote. I'll be getting a letter from Jerry, I expect, if not from Gary. But I think the chances of one from Gary are good, even though I told them both I didn't want to hear from them again...The Realuton thing troubles me. Jim phoned me today to tell me he can't get here tomorrow for some work overdue on the Ray habeas corpus, where I've extensive interviews on tape as the basis of affidavits. I asked him if Ross told him where he was going when he elft. Ross told him Dallas. He did not retain a favorable impression. And I am absolutely clear and certain he told me he was going to Mpls and would not have time to see Gary.

Best,